

NEWS.

DR. HERBERT L. JONES has been elected associate professor of botany in Oberlin College.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH and portrait of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller is published in *Jour. Bot.* 35: 272-278. 1897.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH and portrait of the late Dr. E. S. Bastin are published in the *Amer. Jour. Pharmacy* 89: 385-391. 1897.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that Professor Hugo de Vries of Amsterdam has been appointed successor to the late Professor J. Sachs, of Würzburg.

THE OFFICERS of the Botanical Club for the Boston meeting are Conway Macmillan, president; Clare B. Waldron, vice president; and A. B. Seymour, secretary.

PROFESSOR L. H. PAMMEL, of Ames, Iowa, wishes to obtain living and fresh material of mature or nearly mature pods and seeds of the Leguminosæ of Gray's *Manual*.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT of "two southern botanical worthies," Thomas Walter and Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher, is given in a recent issue of *Garden and Forest* (10: 301. 1897).

AT THE DETROIT MEETING of the A. A. A. S., Dr. W. G. Farlow was elected vice president of the Botanical Section for the Boston meeting, and Erwin F. Smith, secretary.

MISS ARMA ANNA SMITH, a graduate of Cornell University, receiving the degree of Master of Science in 1896, has been appointed assistant in botany in Mount Holyoke College, Mass.

THE LEAF STRUCTURE of six pieces of *Pilocarpus* furnishing the commercial jaborandi of the druggist is described and illustrated by Dr. Albert Schneider in the June number of the *Journal of Pharmacology*.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY at the last commencement conferred the honorary degree A. M. upon Mr. Charles E. Faxon, whose work as an acute botanist and an unsurpassed botanical artist well merit this recognition.

PROFESSOR D. T. MACDOUGAL has distributed reprints of his article on "Curvature of roots" (this journal for May) with title page and table of contents added, and with a statement that the paper was presented to the faculty of Purdue University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The doctorate was conferred at the recent commencement in June.

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THE NEW OFFICERS of the Botanical Society of America are as follows: N. L. Britton, president; J. C. Arthur, vice president; C. R. Barnes, secretary; Arthur Hollick, treasurer; B. L. Robinson and F. V. Coville, councillors.

THE SAD INTELLIGENCE has just reached us that Dr. J. E. Humphrey died at Port Antonio, Jamaica, August 17, where he was engaged in botanical work with a party of biologists from Johns Hopkins University. No details have been obtained.

AMONG THE AWARDS recently made by the Berlin Academy of Sciences for scientific work, were *M.* 2000 to our associate, Professor Engler, for the publication of monographs on African botany; and *M.* 900 to Dr. G. Lindau for studies in lichens.

DRS. CAMPBELL AND MACDOUGAL were present at the Toronto meeting of the Botanical Society of America, and gave a brief account of their study of Jamaica as a site for a tropical laboratory. The West Indies will be examined further by Drs. Farlow and Coulter during the winter.

PROFESSOR A. S. HITCHCOCK, of the State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas, has published an interesting account of the botanical department of that institution in the *Industrialist*, the college paper. The space given to the work and the apparatus speak of excellent opportunities. The herbarium is said to contain 51,975 specimens, of which 10,000 are fungi.

AMONG THE BOTANISTS who attended the Toronto meeting of the British Association were Bower, Farmer, Green, Marshall Ward, Wager, and Seward from England; Magnus from Germany; Jeffrey and Penhallow from Canada; Arthur, Atkinson, Barnes, Bessey, Britton, Campbell, Coulter, Farlow, Galloway, Greene, MacDougal, Newcombe, and Spalding from the United States.

AT THE DEDICATION of the Hull Biological Laboratories, of the University of Chicago, July 2, a conference was held composed of instructors in botany in universities and secondary schools. The botanical building was occupied by students beginning with the summer quarter, July 1. All of the space designed for courses in morphology has been taken by students, as well as all of the private research rooms.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that the September number of the *American Naturalist* will appear under entirely new management. The magazine has been purchased from the estate of the late Professor Cope by a number of gentlemen, and Dr. Robert P. Bigelow, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has accepted the position of editor-in-chief. There will be also an editorial committee and a board of associate editors, whose names will be announced later.

"THE PHYTOGEOGRAPHY OF NEBRASKA" is the title of a work announced by Dr. Roscoe Pound and Mr. F. E. Clements. The first volume, now in press, will comprise about 350 pages and will be sold for \$2.00. "The work deals primarily with phytogeographical problems in Nebraska, but is nevertheless of general interest on account of the treatment of the phytogeographical principles relating to distributional statistics, regional limitation, vegetation forms, habitat groups, plant formations, etc." The publishers are Jacob North & Co., Lincoln, Neb.

THE DIVISION OF BOTANY of the Department of Agriculture has published a bulletin (no. 10) calling attention to three new cruciferous weeds which have been reported from several new localities in the northern United States and Canada during the past four years, in some places having already become aggressive weeds. Although confined as yet to comparatively small areas, and having caused thus far but little damage in this country, the fact that they are spreading in grain fields, meadows, and cultivated lands, and also that they are weeds in the fields of western Europe, are reasons enough for warning the farmers. The plants are *Berteroa incana* (L.) DC., *Conringia orientalis* (L.) Andrz., and *Neslia paniculata* (L.) Desf.

AT THE DETROIT meeting of the Botanical Club, in the absence of the officers, Dr. J. J. Davis was elected president, and Albert F. Woods, secretary. Among the subjects presented are the following: Epidemic of *Erysiphe communis* on *Polygonum aviculare*; A phosphorescent mosquito, and Sensitive stamens of *Opuntia fragilis*, by Dr. Charles Bessey; Farmers' institutes, by W. J. Beal; Some interesting oaks, by Professor C. F. Wheeler; Notes on *Dicranum*, and "Why moss capsules nod," by Dr. R. H. True; A method of preserving the green color of plants, by Mr. A. F. Wood; Winter injury of plum trees in northern Ohio that had been defoliated the previous summer by *Cylindrosporium padi*, by Mr. A. D. Selby; The cultivation of plants on the campus of the University of Michigan, by Professor V. M. Spalding.

A NEW JOURNAL of botany is announced to appear October 1st. The editor is Dr. F. H. Knowlton of the U. S. National Museum, and his associates are Mr. C. L. Pollard, Miss Clara E. Cummings, Mr. Walter Hough, Mrs. N. L. Britton, Miss Josephine E. Tilden, and Mr. A. W. Evans. The magazine will be a 16-page octavo and will occupy an intermediate position between the technical journals and the smaller amateur publications. It will present the facts of plant life in simple, popular language, and aim to interest those who desire acquaintance with plants and their life histories, but who have no inclination for a systematic course of study. The purpose is to be scientific, but not technical. The GAZETTE wishes this new enterprise great success, for it enters upon a large and very useful field. The name is announced as *The Plant World*, an illustrated monthly journal of popular

botany. The subscription price is one dollar, which may be sent to the publishers, Willard N. Clute & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION has undertaken to bring together all possible material bearing on the medicinal uses of plants in the United States. In November 1896 the Pan-American Medical Congress, meeting in the City of Mexico, took steps to institute a systematic study of the American Medicinal flora. The sub-commission appointed for this purpose in the United States consists of Dr. V. Havard, Mr. F. V. Coville, Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, Dr. Charles Mohr, Dr. W. P. Wilson, and Dr. H. H. Rusby. Dr. Rusby is chairman of the general commission, and Dr. Havard is chairman of the sub-commission for the United States. This sub-commission solicits information concerning the medicinal plants of the United States from anyone in a position to accord it. Detailed instructions as to specimens and notes have been prepared, and all packages and correspondence are to be addressed to the Smithsonian Institution and marked on the outside "Medicinal plants, for the U. S. National Museum." The instructions and the necessary franks will be furnished upon application.

AT THE MEETING of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, May 17, Mr. J. B. S. Norton read a paper upon the effects of the tornado of May 1896, upon trees about St. Louis. It was shown that while ordinary winds have some influence on the form and strength of trees, in strong winds uprooting is caused by wet soil, weak spreading roots, and a large exposed surface. If the roots hold, breaks in trunk or branches may occur depending upon strength of wood, form of tree, mode of branching, and weight and resistance of foliage. It was shown that *Acer dasycarpum* was badly broken on account of its brittle wood and heavy foliage. Trees with spreading tops, like *Ulmus Americana*, were broken and uprooted, though the branches were only bent in the individuals with tougher wood. In general, conical trees like *Ulmus campestris*, *Liquidambar*, most conifers, and the oaks of strong fiber, were little injured. *Taxodium distichum*, from its slender form, strength, and elasticity, was injured least of all. After the tornado, which occurred early in the vegetative period, most of the trees continued growth by producing new foliage shoots. While a few died from inability to secure food, others indicated injury by flowering and fruiting more profusely than usual. Mr. H. von Schrenk also submitted preparations showing the formation of two growth rings in 1896, resulting from the defoliation of the denuded branches.

At the meeting of June 7 Mr. Robert Combs, of Ames, Iowa, presented a paper on a collection of plants made in 1895-6 in the province of Santa Clara, Cuba. The paper contained a full catalogue of the plants, which had been determined at the herbarium of Harvard University. A brief statement was also made concerning the origin of the Cuban flora and its affinities with the Central American flora rather than that of adjacent Florida.

DR. BRADLEY M. DAVIS has sailed for Europe, to be absent for one year.

DR. CHARLES E. BESSEY'S presidential address before the Botanical Society of America will be printed in full in the September number of the *BOTANICAL GAZETTE*. The subject is "Phylogeny and Taxonomy of the Angiosperms."

MR. WILLIAM WESLEY WOOLEN, a prominent citizen of Indianapolis, and a member of the Indiana Academy of Science, has indicated his intention of presenting to the city a tract of land containing fifty-six acres, to be used as a botanic garden and an ornithological preserve. The tract is very accessible to the city, and is admirably adapted to the purposes indicated. The details of management are now being considered.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS of Professor Marshall Ward at the Toronto meeting of the British Association was largely a sketch of the progress of our knowledge of fungi during the Victorian period. The paper brought together in a masterly way the principal advances and defined the present condition of the subject. It will prove an exceedingly valuable reference paper, that might have been enhanced by bibliographical references. The ground traversed was so extensive that the address was fairly encyclopedic.

TWENTY FIVE PAPERS were presented before Section G of the American Association, in addition to the vice presidential address of Professor George F. Atkinson, on "Experimental Morphology." The titles are as follows: *Charles A. Davis*, *Trillium grandiflorum*, its variations normal and teratological; *E. J. Durand*, A discussion of the structural characters of the order Pezizineæ of Schröter; *K. M. Weigand*, The taxonomic value of fruit characters in the genus *Galium*; *Charles E. Bessey*, Report upon the progress of the botanical survey of Nebraska; *Albert F. Woods*, Bacteriosis of carnations; *Erwin F. Smith*, Wakker's hyacinth Bacterium; *Charles E. Bessey*, Are the trees receding from the Nebraska plains? *C. A. Peters*, Reproductive organs and embryology of *Drosera*; *J. O. Schlotterbeck*, Development of some seed coats; *J. H. Schuette*, Contributions on wild and cultivated roses of Wisconsin and bordering states; *Fanny E. Langdon*, Development of the pollen of *Asclepias Cornuti*; *Charles E. Bessey*, Some characteristics of the foothill vegetation of western Nebraska; *H. F. Osborn* and *E. B. Poulton*, Organic selection; *James B. Pollock*, Mechanism of root curvature; *Frederick C. Newcombe*, Cellulose ferment; *Rodney H. True* and *C. J. Hunkel*, the toxic action of phenols on plants; *Charles Porter Hart*, Is the characteristic acidity of certain species of the arum family a mechanical or a physiological property or effect? *W. J. Beal*, How plants flee from their enemies; *Alex. P. Anderson*, Stomata on the bud scales of *Abies pectinata*, Comparative anatomy of

the normal and diseased organs of *Abies balsamea* affected with *Æcidium elatinum*, On a new and improved self-registering balance; *Charles O. Townsend*, The correlation of growth under the influence of injuries; *W. W. Rowlee* and *K. M. Weigand*, The botanical collection of the Cornell arctic expedition of 1896; *Erwin F. Smith*, Description of *Bacillus Phaseoli*, n. sp., On the nature of certain pigments produced by fungi and bacteria, with special reference to that produced by *Bacillus solanacearum*.